

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 146231

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, MASS, TH

SUBJECT: EX-CAMBODIAN AND VIETNAMESE EQUIPMENT IN THAILAND

1. THE DEPARTMENT AND DOD HAVE BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE THE NSC STAFF WITH RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE POSSIBLE REDISTRIBUTION OF EQUIPMENT RECOVERED FROM CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF FORMULATING OUR RECOMMENDATIONS, BUT THE CONTINUING DEADLOCK WITH THE RTG OVER THE ISSUE OF EQUIPMENT WHICH REMAINS IN THAILAND IS A MAJOR OBSTACLE TO COMPLETION OF THIS TASK.

2. YOU HAVE RECOMMENDED IN PREVIOUS MESSAGES THAT WE OFFER ALL OF THIS EQUIPMENT (SAVE SIX C-7'S AND ONE F-5E) TO THE THAI IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT THE EQUIPMENT WOULD BE COVERED BY THE TERMS OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT. YOU HAVE SAID THAT SUCH AN OFFER WOULD HOLD OUT THE BEST PROSPECT OF ELIMINATING THE CURRENT STALE-

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MATE AS A POTENTIAL IRRITANT IN U.S.-THAI RELATIONS AND OF GIVING US A REASONABLE GUARANTEE THAT THE EQUIPMENT WILL NOT FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE NEW REGIMES IN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM. WE RECOGNIZE THE MERIT OF YOUR PROPOSAL, BUT WE ARE RELUCTANT TO RESORT TO IT IN VIEW OF OTHER USES TO

WHICH THE EQUIPMENT COULD BE PUT AND AS LONG AS THERE MAY BE SOME HOPE OF RETRIEVING IT.

3. AT THE MOMENT, WE ARE CONSIDERING A PACKAGE DEAL WITH THE THAI WHICH WOULD INCLUDE GIVING THEM THE BUSINESS OF REHABILITATING THE EQUIPMENT WHICH WE WOULD TURN OVER TO THEM(AND PERHAPS THE BUSINESS OF REHABILITATING OTHER ITEMS WHICH WOULD BE TAKEN OUT OF THAILAND) IN RETURN FOR THEIR AGREEMENT TO RELEASE THE REST OF THE EQUIPMENT. IF WE ARE TO PURSUE THIS APPROACH, WE WILL NEED THE EMBASSY'S VIEW OF THE FOLLOWING SINCE OUR PLANS ARE NOT YET FIRM, PLEASE DO NOT DISCUSS OR SOLICIT IDEAS FROM THE THAI):

(A) WOULD THE THAI BE WILLING TO ENTER INTO SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT?

(B) DO THE THAI HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO REHABILITATE EQUIPMENT NOW IN THAILAND?

(C) WOULD THE THAI BE WILLING TO PROVIDE US ASSURANCES IN WRITING THAT THE EQUIPMENT WE TURN OVER TO THEM WOULD BE GOVERNED BY MAP RULES (I.E., THAT THEY WOULD NOT TURN IT OVER TO THE NEW REGIMES IN VIET-NAM AND CAMBODIA WITHOUT OUR AUTHORIZATION?

(D) WHAT IS YOUR BEST ESTIMATE OF THE COST OF REHABILITATING THE EQUIPMENT IN THAILAND?

(E) OF THE AIRCRAFT EARLIER OFFERED TO THE THAI, HOW MANY WERE ACTUALLY TURNED OVER TO THEM?

(F) HOW WOULD THE THAI REACT TO THE PROSPECT OF HAVING THE VALUE OF THE EQUIPMENT STILL IN THAILAND DEDUCTED FROM THEIR MAP IN FY 76? (THIS IS A POSSIBILITY WITH WHICH WE MIGHT BE FACED.)

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(G) WOULD IT BE USEFUL TO LET THE THAI KNOW THAT EXCEPT FOR THE ITEMS IN WHICH WE HAVE AN INTEREST, THE REST OF THE EQUIPMENT WOULD GO TO FRIENDLY COUNTRIES, INCLUDING SOME OF THAILAND'S ASEAN ASSOCIATES, WITHOUT GOING BACK TO THE U.S.?

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR REACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT NOT LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS JUNE 23, WASHINGTON TIME, IN ORDER THAT WE CAN MEET THE NSC DEADLINE. KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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